

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brother-
hood
From sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!
O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

- Katharine Lee Bates



Corridor of Honor Military Memorial . Civic Center Park . Bennett, CO

Corridor of Honor Military Memorial

Dedication Ceremony
Memorial Day
Monday, May 26 2014





Welcome to the dedication of the Corridor of Honor Military Memorial:

Today we come together to commemorate the sacrifices made for our nation by our brave men and women who have fought and given their lives for the cause of freedom. It is fitting that we dedicate our Corridor of Honor Military Memorial on Memorial Day, when we remember the sacrifices made by our loved ones so that freedom will be preserved for future generations.

Many of you here today served in our nation's armed forces to defend her freedom and many are here to remember loved ones who gave their lives in that service. This memorial is a place to come together to remember those who fought so valiantly and to pause in peaceful reflection.

As we dedicate this memorial, I want to thank those who worked so hard to make their dream for this place of reflection and tribute become a reality. There is more work for all of us to do, but today our memorial opens to the public. As Mayor of Bennett, I want to say how honored we are that the memorial representing residents along the Corridor is located in Bennett, and we pledge to continue to honor the entire Corridor in our dedication to this site.

This beautiful memorial site offers us the opportunity to pay our respects to our citizens who serve and have served on behalf of our great country. Each branch of the service is represented, and individual bricks with the names of veterans and service members are included in the design. It is our hope that it becomes a gathering place for all our citizens along the I-70 Corridor.

Let us move forward remembering those principles for which our sons and daughters so bravely fought: Freedom, Justice and Liberty.

With respect,

Sue F. Horn
Mayor
Town of Bennett



Sue Horn, Mayor

Thank you to all our supporters



Tri-Valley VFW Post 8449
VFW Post 9491



American Legion Posts:
183, 121, 160



Bennett - Troop 30
Strasburg—Troop 439



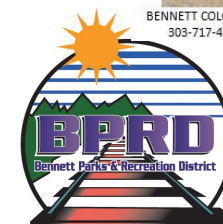
IMAGINE IN STONE



BENNETT COLORADO
303-717-4124



HIGH PLAINS
MUSIC
ENSEMBLE



The UPS Store



CW

ELABORATIONS, INC.



Memorial Founder Kirsten Solberg, COHMM Committee, Bennett Mini-Storage, Bennett Market Place Liquors, Byers General Store, Clark's Equipment Sales & Rentals, Corona's, Havana Signs, KT's Famous BBQ, Lucky Strike Lanes, Moore Lumber & Hardware, Sherer Auto Parts, High Plains Diner, J & R Bennett Welding Inc, Pizza B's, Arrow J Landscape and Design Inc, Home Depot, Subway, Colorado Stone Quarries Inc, Cave De Marmo and Steve Dorian, Middle J Repair Inc, Ironworks and Mountain View Fellowship, ColorTech Printing, Hawk Quest, Enchanted Floral Design, Friends, and Family.

A History in the Making

Corridor of Honor Military Memorial

Kirsten Solberg, founder of the Corridor of Honor Military Memorial is a native to Bennett, CO and the I-70 Corridor. She is the daughter of Vietnam Veteran, Ralph Solberg and mother Barbra and sister to Karen Solberg-Finan.

A note from Kirsten:

I came across an article in the June 17, 2011 copy of USA Today, of how veterans' memorials can bring comfort and closure to families of fallen soldiers. The article resonated with me so much that I began thinking about what a memorial would mean to others. The conclusion that I came to was simply this... when life delivers disappointment, challenges and heartache, a memorial can be a symbol of hope and represent something tangible to hold onto. It is a reminder that courage and hope remain, and that our dreams can continue because of those who sacrificed for our future. Through this endeavor, I have had the great opportunity to learn about many veterans and see first-hand the expressions on the faces of veterans and their families. This personal experience has validated the need to convey my commitment to cherish and honor those military men and women who fought for our freedom, and has given this memorial meaning and purpose.

While conducting research for this project, I learned of a Bennett resident with four generations of veterans who served with honor in her family. In 1968-1969 my own father was activated and served in Vietnam for one year. I began to ponder. How many other residents along the corridor have similar stories? How many other veterans on the I-70 Corridor are there that we are not aware of that have served or who are currently serving? I eventually determined and believe that what we put into the lives of others will come back to us tenfold.

From Inception to Completion

In 2011, research began on the Corridor of Honor Veterans Memorial, a name originally picked out by the people. Phone calls, networking and many trips to the library ensued as I educated myself and sought to garner support for the project. In January 2012, the memorial project was added to the Town of Bennett's Adams County Open Space Grant application. The exciting news came on May 25th, 2012, when the Adams County Commissioners gave their approval and accepted the grant application. The engineers for the grant are Chris Hoy of Christopher Hoy Design Group and Daniel Giroux of Diversified Consulting Solutions, Inc. along with veterans Bob Quinn and John Kuiee.

In February of 2012, the Veterans of Vietnam Motorcycle Club took us under their umbrella until June of 2013 when they were no longer located in Colorado. At that time, the Strasburg American Legion Post 183 decided to be our non-profit.

Pattie Lindsay, an artist from Byers, CO was enlisted to produce a piece of art to incorporate onto the memorial. Countless hours were spent designing and drawing the eagle you now

see etched into the memorial. Each stalk of wheat in the eagle's talon represents a town in the I-70 corridor: Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail, and Agate.

A ray of hope came through an email in June of 2011 from Colorado Stone Quarry in Marble, CO that a 5' x 4' x 2' piece of marble was being donated to the cause. Our thanks to Will Handeville for the requesting and arranging of the marble donation. In the spring of 2013, a company from Italy bought Colorado Stone Quarries, Inc. and informed us that we needed to send a written application for the marble donation. The request was accepted and on July 9, 2013, Maurice and Millie Mertens, their son Richard, and myself went to Marble, CO to pick up the 6200lb. marble slab. The slab was taken to Erickson Monument for the memorial work to be done. Steve Dorian of Cave DeMarmo carved, cut and repaired a crack on the marble and cut the granite into a pentagon shape and inlayed it within the marble. The saying on the backside of the marble was sandblasted by Erickson Monument and the eagle was etched by Kazem Rezayi of Havana Signs.

In May of 2013, the committee voted to change the title to the Corridor of Honor Military Memorial. Following this decision, the committee also voted on using Fundraising Bricks Company. The veteran's names will be laser engraved on bricks and the only disqualification is a dishonorable discharge. It is for past, present and future veterans and service members from the I-70 Corridor and throughout our nation.

On July 3, 2013, many of you joined us for a momentous milestone when we commenced the Ground Breaking Ceremony. This revealed a time when we realized the need to recognize our World War II Veterans from this area.

In September of 2013, officers were voted in and included: Chair Maurice Mertens Sr., First Vice Chair John Kuiee, Second Vice Chair Kirsten Solberg, Secretary Bob Quinn, and Treasurer Roger Brownfield.

As you can tell, this memorial is more than just a structure. It is built from the heart, from the inside out, with a mission and with an emphasis on team work. It is an example that I hope others will use as a model. The memorial is still a work in progress, there are many more veterans to honor and a few future goals to put into action. One plan may be to incorporate a book of the veterans and families who would like to participate and share their stories.

The Corridor of Honor Military Memorial places Bennett and the I-70 Corridor communities on the map. It portrays us in a positive light, and provides our communities' veterans with dignity and honor. All my thanks to the committee, the volunteers and everyone who contributed to our success. A gold star goes to those who have been a mentor, advisor, counselor, and listener for me in this arduous journey to this wonderful point in time.

Kirsten J Solberg
Founder

Corridor of Honor Military Memorial



From Inception Ground Breaking, July 2013

On July 3, 2013, many of you joined us for a momentous milestone when we commenced the Ground Breaking Ceremony. This revealed a time when we realized the need to recognize our World War II Veterans from this area.



To Completion Memorial Dedication, May 2014

...when life delivers disappointment, challenges and heartache, a memorial can be a symbol of hope and represent something tangible to hold onto. It is a reminder that courage and hope remain, and that our dreams can continue because of those who sacrificed for our future.

—Kirsten Solberg, Founder

Corridor of Honor Military Memorial Dedication Schedule of Events

Procession

Introduction

Master of Ceremonies, CMSgt Mark J Waibel

Posting of Official Colors

US Naval Sea Cadets, Lexington Division

National Anthem

Marah Merrill & Amilia Griffith

Invocation

Pastor Bob McCurley

Remarks

Mayor Sue Horn, Town of Bennett

Memorial Founder Kirsten Solberg

Senator Mary Hodge

Representative Kevin Priola

Lieutenant Colonel Mitchell D. Utterback, *Commander of the Fifth Battalion, Nineteenth Special Forces Group (Airborne) Watkins, Colorado*

Armed Forces Medley

High Plains Music Ensemble

Posting of Official Colors of the Corridor of Honor Military Memorial

United States, POW/MIA, State of Colorado

Posting of Service Flags

Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard & Merchant Marines

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Volleyfire

VFW 8449 Bennett & American Legion Post 183 Strasburg

TAPS

Ben Williams

Benediction

Chaplain Joseph G. Murphy

Retiring of the Colors

Closing Remarks

Master of Ceremonies, CMSgt Mark J Waibel

"America the Beautiful" (*Words on the back of the program*)

High Plains Music Ensemble

Ribbon Cutting of Memorial Site

The public is invited to view the Memorial at the conclusion of the Dedication